



THE
C A S E
OF

Benjamin Johnson, Josias Miller, Theophilus Cibber,
John Harper, Benjamin Griffin, William Mills,
William Milward, and Elizabeth Butler,

LESSEES of the THEATRE-ROYAL in Drury-Lane.



HAT in 1733 they took a *Lease* from the Renters or Proprietors of the said Theatre (for the Term of Fifteen Years) at the *yearly Rent* of 920 *l.* which, together with *Taxes and Repairs*, make the *whole* above 1000 *l.* a *Year*.

That if the Bill now depending in this Honourable House, for Explaining and Amending so much of the Twelfth of Queen Anne as relates to common Players of Interludes (which they apprehend is designed only to regulate the Stage) should pass into a Law, and they be restrain'd thereby from acting Plays at the said Theatre, and should the Person who now occupies the same (as Tenant at will) happen to die, or dispose of his Clothes, Scenes, &c. or be minded to quit the same, then in such Case the Lessees will be liable to that great Rent, without the Means of doing any Performance whereby to enable them to pay it, to the inevitable Ruin of themselves and Families.

They are well persuaded a REGULATION of the STAGE not only may be of great Use to them, but of great Advantage to the Stage in general, by preventing the exhibiting any licentious or scandalous Piece, &c. But as THEY have in all Instances demonstrated their Duty, Affection and Loyalty to HIS MAJESTY, and the present HAPPY ESTABLISHMENT, and ever have (AS FAR AS LAY IN THEIR POWER) discountenanced any thing that had the least Tendency to Vice, Immorality or Disaffection, they therefore humbly hope they shall be so far considered in the said Bill, as that they may be enabled to perform Plays, &c. at the said Theatre under the Restrictions and Regulations in the Bill, or in such other manner as to this Honourable House shall seem meet.



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